

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated February 5, 2004 (Paper No. 8). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-29 and 31 will remain pending in this application. Claims 8, 14 and 30 are canceled. Claim 5 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 8. Claim 10 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 14. Claim 25 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 30. Moreover, claims 9, 11, 12, 15, and 31 have been amended by rewriting each in independent form including all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment. Moreover, the claim amendments do not present any new issues that would require a new search or consideration by the Examiner.

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Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Largent (U.S. Pat. No. 6,312,424).

Claims 10, 13 and 16-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious based on Largent in view of Dunn (U.S. Pat. No. 5,864,379).

Claims 5-7 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious based on Largent in view of Shimmick (U.S. Pat. No. 6,203,539).

The above three rejections are addressed together as similar issues apply to each. Moreover, Applicant traverses each rejection.

As stated above, claim 5 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 8. Claim 10 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 14. Claim 25 has been amended by incorporation of all of the features of previous claim 30. Moreover, claims 9, 11, 12, 15, and 31 have been amended by rewriting each in independent form including all of the features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Previous claims 8, 14, and 30 and pending claims 9, 11, 12, 15, and 31 were not included in any of the three above rejections. Hence, Applicant submits that all of the claims as presently amended are free of the cited art. Applicant thus submits that each rejection is overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-31 were provisionally rejected in the Office Action under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-56 of U.S. Patent Appln. No. 6,302,877.

In response, Applicant files herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, signed by an attorney of record. As the Terminal Disclaimer overcomes this rejection withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate all of the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Request for Reconsideration, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 032935.497723.

Respectfully submitted,

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